

RELEASE OF STAFF BACK TO WORK AFTER COVID-19 POSITIVE TEST

The BOP relies on the local Health Department or the individual's healthcare provider to delineate the method used to release COVID-19 positive staff from isolation using a symptom-based, or test-based method in accordance with CDC guidance.

- **Staff with COVID-19 positive test in Isolation who experienced symptoms at the time of testing and/or during isolation period**
 - The symptom based criteria is detailed as the following:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
 - The test-based criteria is detailed as the following:
 - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and
 - Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 test from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).
- **Staff with COVID-19 positive test in Isolation who do NOT experience symptoms at the time of testing or during the isolation period**
 - The symptom based criteria is detailed as the following:
 - The staff member continues to experience no symptoms since the date of testing
 - 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test

*Note, because symptoms cannot be used to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness, it is possible that the duration of viral shedding could be longer or shorter than 10 days after their first positive test.
 - The test-based criteria is detailed as the following:
 - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and
 - Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 test from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).